GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2112
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
FIRE AT ORDNANCE DEPOT
Mane Smt. Nivedita;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire incident has taken place at the Jabalpur based Army Ordnance Depot;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether fire broke out in the ammunition depot of Army at Khandroo in South Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details of losses suffered thereby and action taken thereon;

(e) the details of investigation conducted to find out the reasons for fire;

(f) the number of central and regimental ammunition depots in the country; and

(g) the steps taken to make the depots fire resistant?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Army. Nineteen people have reportedly died in the incident. Before the completion of Court of Inquiry, it will be premature to indicate any estimate of damage caused.

(f) There are one Central and Fourteen Regional Ammunition Depots in the country.

(g) Modernization of Ordnance Depots including improvement of safety measures is an ongoing process. Government has approved an amount of Rs.1413.34 crores since 1998 till date for the upgradation of the ammunition storage facilities. Government has also approved modernization of the existing security and fire prevention infrastructure in the Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon, Field Ammuniton Depot at Jodhpur and an Ammunition Company as a pilot project.